El Tecolote

BULLETIN OF THE SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

December 1987 Vol. 25 No. 4



Santa Barbara Audubon Office 300 North Los Carneros Road Goleta, CA 93227 (805) 964-1468

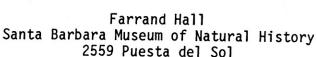
Lee Sutter Editor



MONTHLY PROGRAM

January 29, Friday 8:00 pm

* * * MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT * * *



Santa Barbara

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US!

The new year's first meeting on January 29 is Members' Slide Night. You can talk about wanderlusting through the jungles of Colombia or hiking the backwoods of Santa Barbara. Members are limited to 10 slides/10 minutes. This is a great opportunity to share your pictures and your stories and meet other members. Sign up with Blase through the Audubon office.

BIRDS OF SANTA BARBARA
There were some outstanding sightings in the
Santa Barbara area during the late autumn
period. An apparent Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
in Carpinteria in mid-October would constitute
the fourth record for the state and the first
locally. A White-eyed Vireo at the same
location for ten days at the end of the month is
the first fall record for California and our
second ever.

An immature Scarlet Tanager was at Stowe House in Goleta in early November. Also in Goleta, a female Vermilion Flycatcher had joined a Tropical Kingbird at the golf course near Devereux. A Pine Warbler, the fourth local record, was at Gaviota State Beach.

Lastly, several flocks of Red Crossbills were briefly noted in the Goleta area, evidence of a movement of this erruptive species this winter

NEWS FLASH! A Yellow-throated Vireo at San Pedro Creek in Goleta in mid-November is only the third record locally, and an immature Painted Bunting was near Devereux during the same period. Paul Lehman



CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

December 10 Board Meeting - to be held at the home of SBAS President Thursday 7:00 pm Mary Ann Ambrose December 12 Lake Cachuma Meet at 5-Pts Shopping Ctr. Good trip for wintering waterfowl and eagles. Saturday 7:30 am Bring lunch/water. Leader Jim Hodgson (969-1209). Beginner's Walk- Lake Los Carneros. Meet at Stowe House December 16 parking lot, behind Goleta Depot, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd. Wednesday 8:30 am Leader Mary Ann Ambrose (685-1386) Christmas Bird Count - Details and application on insert, January 2 Saturday this issue. January 15 Grouse/Eastern Sierra Trip Sign-up Deadline For information and reservations, call Tom at Friday (805) 968-1540. Details this issue. Members' Slide Night - Farrand Hall, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. See cover for details. January 29 Friday 8:00 pm

JANUARY TRIPS

Due to the Holidays we do not have much scheduled for December, and most of January's trips still need to be firmed up. Plans for January include a field trip to the Ventura County Game Preserve, a boat trip at Lake Cachuma, and a field trip to Carrizo Plains. Please call the office late December or early January for details. (805) 964-1468.

SAGE GROUSE AND WINTER BIRDING TOUR OF THE EASTERN SIERRA

Join us March 25-27 for a weekend of birding and adventure in the Mammoth Mountain area. At this season, the snow-covered escarpment of the eastern Sierra Nevada provides a dramatic backdrop for one of the most spectacular avian events on this continent - the mating assembly and display of the Sage Grouse.

Each day in the pre-dawn hours, hundreds of male grouse cluster at traditional sites scattered acrosss sagebrush-edged meadows to strut and display before assemblies of female grouse which wander among them, seemingly indifferent to their solicitation. By mid-morning the arenas are empty; the grouse have slipped quietly back into the surrounding cover of sagebrush and are scatterd widely across the basin. But the following day, and each day thereafter throughout the early spring, they'll assemble and replay their mating ritual.

Other avian highlights include Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans, other raptors and waterfowl, Evening Grosbeaks, and a host of hardy over-wintering species which could even include a flock of Rosy Finches. If that's not enough, our pursuit of avian adventure will be interrupted frequently to note geologic phenomena and items of botanic interest.



Sage Grouse

January 15 is deadline for signing up. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Don't miss this special trip. Comfortable group accommodations have been reserved for us in Mammoth. A trip fee of \$65 per person includes accommodations for both nights (Friday and Saturday, March 25 and 26). Trip leaders are Tom Wurster and Joan Lentz.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Fifteen people participated Saturday in the outstanding field trip at Lake Los Carneros under the expert leadership of Jim Hodgson. Fifty species were sighted, including a most unusual Ash-throated Flycatcher. Stunning performances were given by Redtailed and Redshouldered Hawks, and good looks were had at a pair of Redheads and Blue Gray Gnatcatchers.

M. E. Smith

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CHRISTMAS COUNT - SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1988

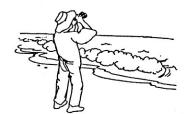
Set Saturday, January 2, 1988, aside for our Annual Christmas Bird Count, and complete and send in the coupon shown below.

Paul Lehman will again be our compiler; however, since Paul will be out of town all during Christmas vacation, Joan Lentz and Pat Kelly have agreed to help organize the Count. Pat will be taking sign-ups, either by phone or by mail (see below). During the week of December 28, 1987, we will be contacting you with details of the area you will cover. Please indicate on the enrollment form where and when we can reach you during that week.

We need birders of all levels to participate in this important event. The potluck dinner and tallying begin at 6:00 pm on the 2nd at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (Bird Habitat Hall). Come and join us at the "countdown" and bring your favorite casserole (or salad, bread, dessert, drinks, etc.) Let us know what you can contribute when we call you in December.

A couple of weeks <u>before</u> the Count, watch for the following birds: grosbeaks, tanagers, <u>orioles</u>, any non-Anna's Hummingbirds, unusual sparrows at feeders such as Whitethroated or Harris. Other species we need: any geese, dippers, Pygmy Owls, Long-billed Curlews. In fact, we are interested in any species in <u>The Birds of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties</u> by Lehman, et. al. that are listed as rare or casual during this season. If you locate any of the above, call Joan (969-4397) or Pat (962-9916). THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!





K. Foster

SANTA BARBARA CHRISTMAS COUNT January 2, 1987

Please complete this form and return to: Name(s): Phone: Address:	Pat Kelly 554 Litchfield Lane Santa Barbara, CA 93109 (805) 962-9916 Check any of the following options:
Area Preferred:	Leader Feeder Count
Would like to work with:	Neighborhood
	I (wo) will attend di

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As promised last month I'd like to explain what we do with our share of your NAS dues.

El Tecolote. We are required by NAS to publish a minimum of six issues a year and are encouraged to make our newsletter a vehicle for education and furthering conservation efforts. Though it is our most expensive single item, we think we serve you well with information.

Office/Library. The office is staffed 20 hrs per week by volunteers who give assistance and information. The office provides a centralized location for keeping records of conservation issues, bird censuses, and community and world-wide resources. We are building an extensive ornithological library for reference and pleasure. Members are encouraged to check books out.

Education. NAS has historically placed a major emphasis on education from a strong belief that this is the path for change and hope for preserving our natural world. We feel SBAS has one of the finest education programs in the state, with five volunteers offering fall-to-spring programs to schools and community groups from Carpinteria to Goleta. Also, we currently sponsor eleven 5th or 6th grade classes to National's Audubon Adventures program which consists of a monthly lesson and newsletter for students and teachers.

Field Trips. Although a separate category, and certainly the least expensive service provided, I believe field trips are an integral part of education. Always fun, they offer a diversity of destinations to provide access to all our local birds. And there is nothing like actually seeing the wildlife and their habitat to gain an understanding and appreciation for preservation issues; that is always a goal of our field adventures.

Conservation. The conservation committee keeps tabs on what is happening locally and globally, and initiates action or assists other organized groups when serious threats to the environment or animals exist. Writing letters, attending hearings, and organizing action groups are all important to being heard and affecting change. SBAS has played an integral role in three important local issues lately: development of the Plan to Rehabilitate the Bird Refuge, the plight of the Least Bell's Vireo, and operations of the County Flood Control District.

I think we have much to be proud of, but there is much more to be done. Therefore, we must find a way to finance our work in the community and not rely on diminishing NAS funds. Please help us with your ideas and contributions. If you would like more specific information about our activities, I, or other Board Members will be happy to answer your questions......Mary Ann Ambrose, President

HOLIDAY GIFTS

If you're stuck for gift ideas, remember we have a wonderful new Petersen guide for beginning birders on sale at the Audubon office, as well as National Geographic's Field Guide, and Santa Barbara Audubon Society T-shirts. Or how about a gift of a new membership? Still only \$20. Visit our charming office, located near Stowe House, upstairs at the historic Goleta Depot, 300 N. Los Carneros Rd.

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD
Audrey reported library books were sorted;
some some sold for a total of \$50. Remaining
books on sale in office. Stearn's Wharf
Birthday Pary netted about \$170; Marge commended
for her work and time spent on that project.
Bird Alert recording machine not working;
discussed to repair or replace. Board will view
NAS tape on population explosion next meeting.
Tomi reported no EIR for Gibraltar; Boeseke
Ranch in Montecito slated for development;
mountain bikes on Rattlesnake Trail a problem.

NEW MEMBERS

We have had a great response to our new-membership offer. Thanks to all of you who responded to this offer and to those who found new members for us. A warm welcome to the newcomers; hope to be seeing you at our events.

RECORDING ARTIST WANTED

Hearty birder to take on Bird Alert Duties: take calls of sightings, verify if necessary, and record Dial-A-Bird tape weekly. Some duties negotiable. Contact Mary Ann Ambrose 685-1386

WELCOME

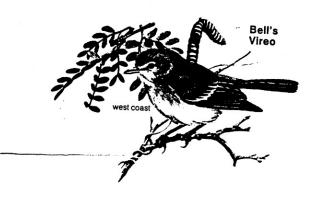
We welcome Margaret Eyman to our regular office staff. She will be in the office on Wednesdays.

THANK YOU!

A special thanks to Anne Gripp of the Santa Barbara Orchid Estate for donating an orchid for the raffle at our November monthly meeting. AUDUBON COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING A Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve field trip began the November 7 program. This 500-acre coastal wetland in southwestern Orange County is a fabulous birding area. Sea and Sage Audubon hosted the meeting at Seacliff Village with its decorative and informative outdoor bird museum, large tile murals, and displays.

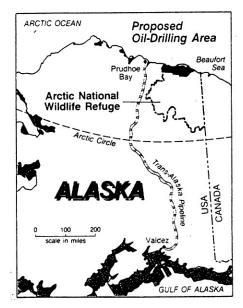
Richard Zembal, US Fish and Wildlife biologist's program "What's Happening to the Endangered Species and Other Wildlife in Southern California Wetlands?" (from Goleta to the Mexican border) stressed that the task of endangered species and habitat recovery is many-fold. Clapper Rail, Least Bell's Vireo, California Least Tern, and the Belding Savannah Sparrow are primary concerns. He suggested that each chapter take care of a wetland.

Former State Coastal Commissioner Mel Nutter reviewed the last 15 years of the CCC.



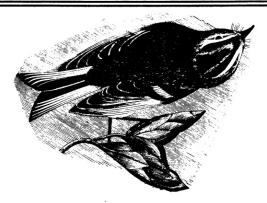
CEC/HART REPORT

Santa Barbara environmental organizations recently participated in a dialogue with State Senator Gary Hart at the Community Environmental Council. The following issues were discussed: Restrictions on local and state government financing by Gann limits and Proposition 13. Hart feels issues should be by legislation rather than by initiatives. Water: Southern California wants more water; need to establish drinking-water standards; pollution of Santa Monica Bay. Air Quality: Reorganize South Coast Air Quality Board; Hart has two bills on smog control; <u>Toxics-Plastics:</u> Transportation of toxics, Roberti bill on toxic waste and its reduction. Government agencies: Coastal Commission ineffective since Governor cut the budget; three district coastal offices closed. Governor has tried to eliminate CAL OSHA.



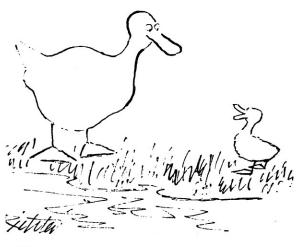
ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
Currently, HR Bill 1082 is before the House
Interior Committee which would open AWR to oil
and gas drilling. Industry lobbying continues
full-force to access the area for drilling, yet
the potential yield of energy is questionable.
Robert Lagomarsino, our representative is a
member of the House Interior Committee. Please
write him at 814 State St., Santa Barbara 93101,
and express your opposition to HR 1082 or any
opening of that area to oil/gas exploration
until Congress can obtain more solid information
on the impacts of drilling and its consequent
pollution of the area and wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM
The fifth annual symposium, January 30 & 31
at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Sacramento, is
sponsored yearly by the Planning and
Conservation League. Panels and debates will
discuss a wide range of urgent environmental
issues. Call SBAS office for more information.



BANDING PROJECT

A long-term bird banding project is being conducted in the Mission Canyon area; your help is needed to make the project a success. Species may include warblers, flycatchers, kinglets, woodpeckers, titmice, or many others. If you sight birds with a silver metal band on either leg, please report date, location, and species to Bruce Peterson (805) 569-3731.



"Mom, are we waterproof or just water-resistant?"

"DINNER TO GO PLEASE"
Connie Cody, of Betty Williams' Buttonwood
Farm in Solvang reports that the foreman and his
assistant have been spending a lot of time
searching for gopher traps lately. Seems that
turkey vultures grab hold of the stick that
protrudes from the top of the traps, fly off
with the trap and the captured gophers, and find
a peaceful spot to enjoy their meal undisturbed!

SBAS OFFICE
We are open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Monday through Friday.

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"The Feathered World", a photographic exhibit by Wildlife Research Photographer B. "Moose" Peterson is on display at the Cate School Gallery in Carpinteria. This public showing runs from November 15 - December 16.

EL TECOLOTE Santa Barbara Audubon Society 300 No. Los Carneros Rd. Goleta, CA 93117

Please Carry
Please Carry

SOUTH COAST BIRD REPORTS

Los Angeles	(213) 874-1318
San Francisco	(415) 528-0288
San Bernardino	(714) 793-5599
San Diego	(619) 435-6761
Santa Barbara	(805) 964-8240

For current news of rare and unusual sightings in the Santa Barbara area, call 964-8240 anytime, night or day. You will hear a three-minute recording giving all the latest information. If you have any unusual or exciting sightings, please call the SBAS office (805) 964-1468.



SORRY!

Our Dial-A-Bird tape machine had been out of order for some time, without our knowledge. Then, adding insult to injury, the number to call was listed incorrectly last issue. We have a new machine now, are listing the correct phone number, and have up-to-date reports. Call it! We apologize for any inconvenience this caused.

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